

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: March YEAR: 2011
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Troy Lindquist Service Hydrologist
DATE: April 13, 2011	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

X An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Overview

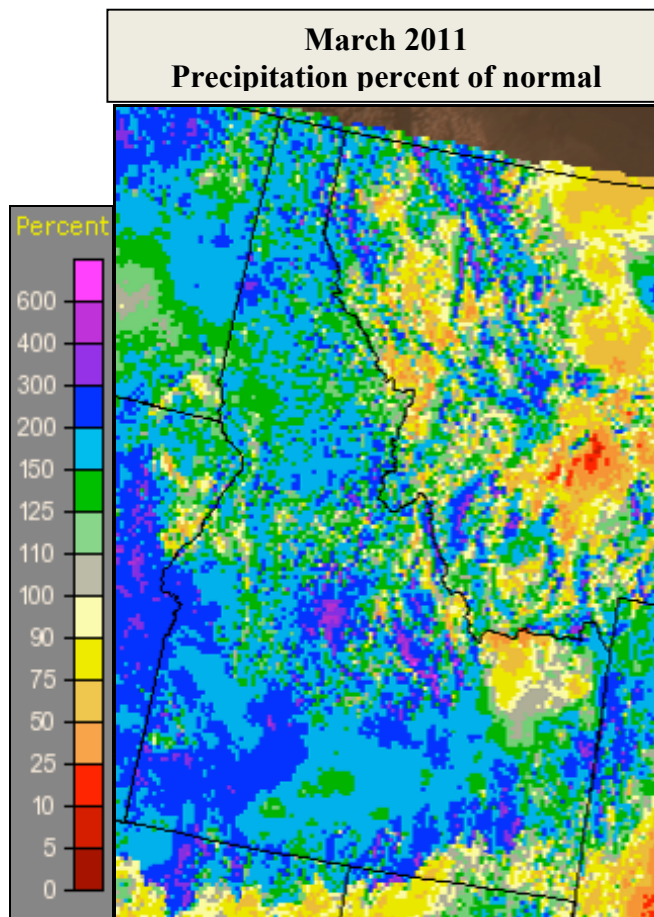
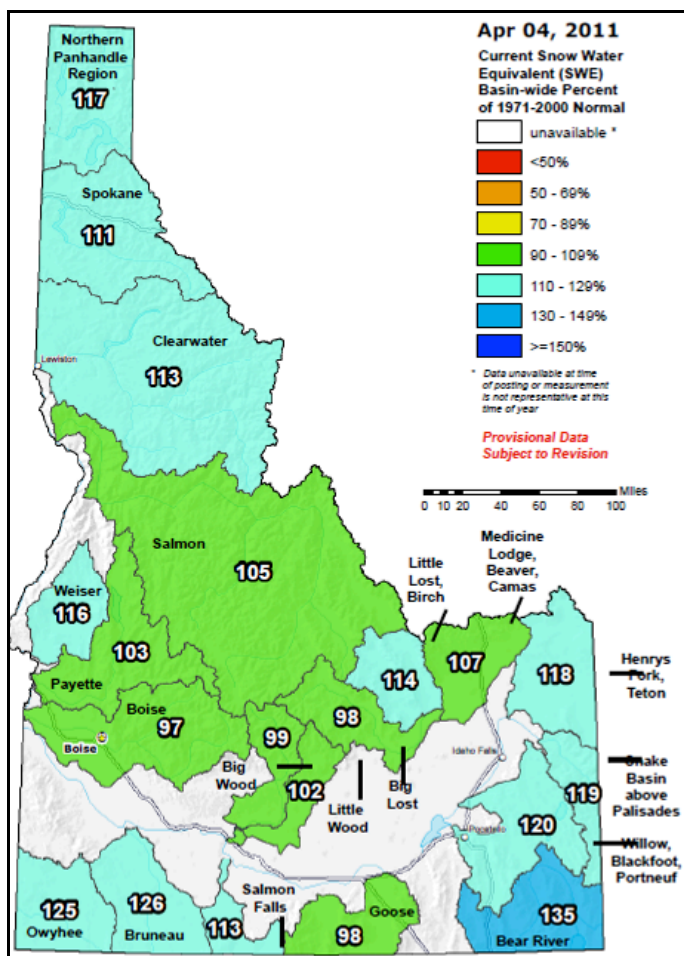
Wet and cool conditions dominated the month of March resulting in large increases in mountain snowpack throughout the Upper Snake River region. Snow water equivalent (SWE) in individual basins increased by 12 to 26 percentage points leaving the entire HSA at normal or above normal for the water year through March 31. The Bear River Basin continued to lead the way with 135% of normal SWE while the Big Lost River and Goose Creek Basins had the lowest amounts at 101% of normal. Reservoir operators began significant releases from the major storage reservoirs on the Upper Snake River in preparation for the large volume of runoff to occur later this spring. The cool and wet spring conditions along with moist soils and above normal snowpack has set the stage for above average river and stream flows later this year and heightened spring flood potential.

Precipitation

Forty-five National Weather Service COOP and automated stations with climate data reported monthly precipitation for March. All but 4 of the stations received greater than 100% of normal precipitation. NRCS SNOTEL data showed precipitation amounts of 178% of average across the central mountains for March. The Bear River Basin snowpack ranks in the top 5 since records began in the early 1960s. The White Elephant SNOTEL site in the Henry Fork Basin set a new monthly precipitation record with 11.3 inches.

ASOS Daily Precipitation Records		
Station	New or Tied Record	Previous Record
Idaho Falls Airport	March 16 - .33" rainfall	.26" - 1975
Pocatello Airport	March 16 - .39" rainfall	.22" - 1970

COOP Monthly Precipitation Records		
Station	New or Tied Record	Previous Record
Bern	2.27" (high)	2.16" - 1993
Wayan	2.51" (high)	2.08" - 1998

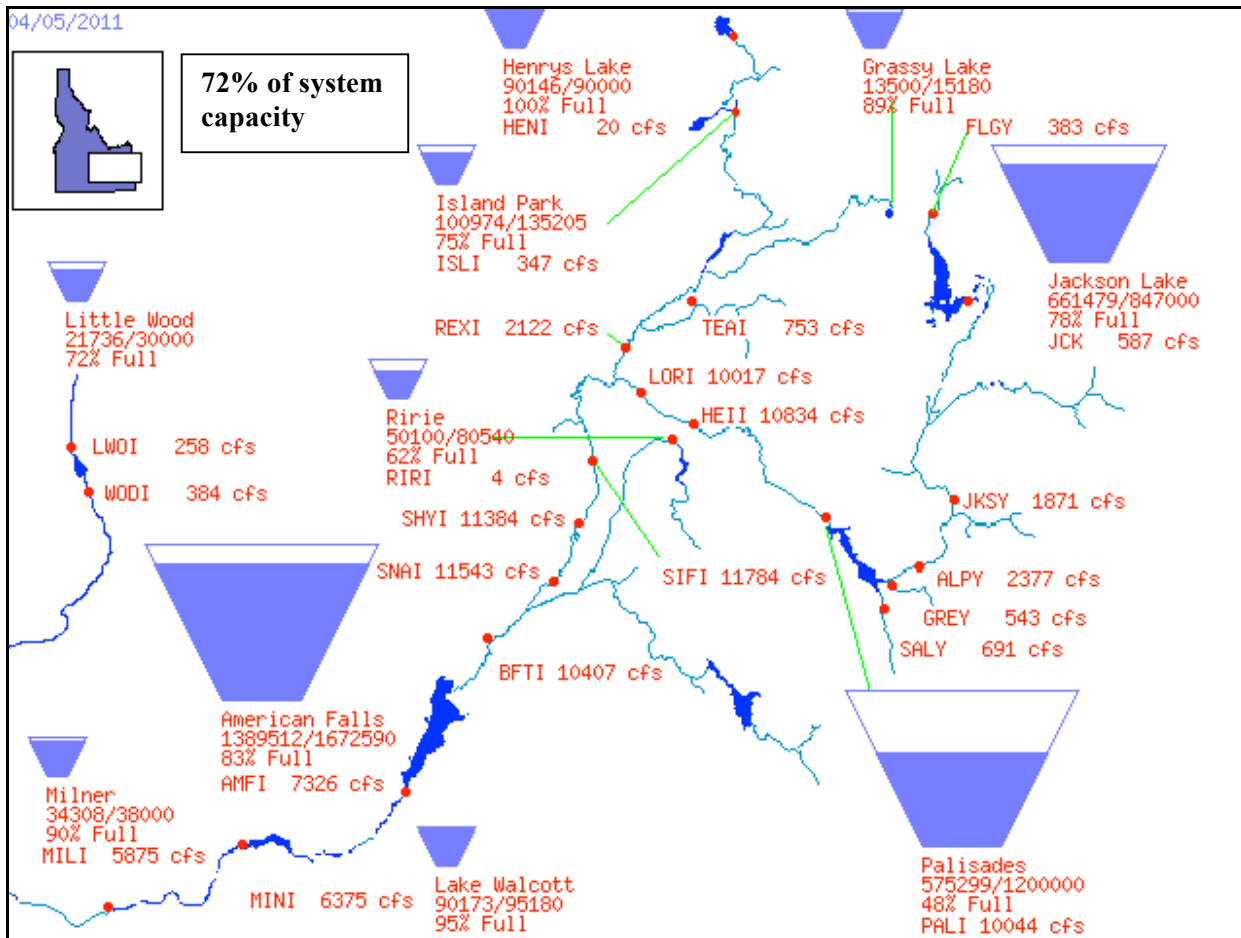


Reservoirs

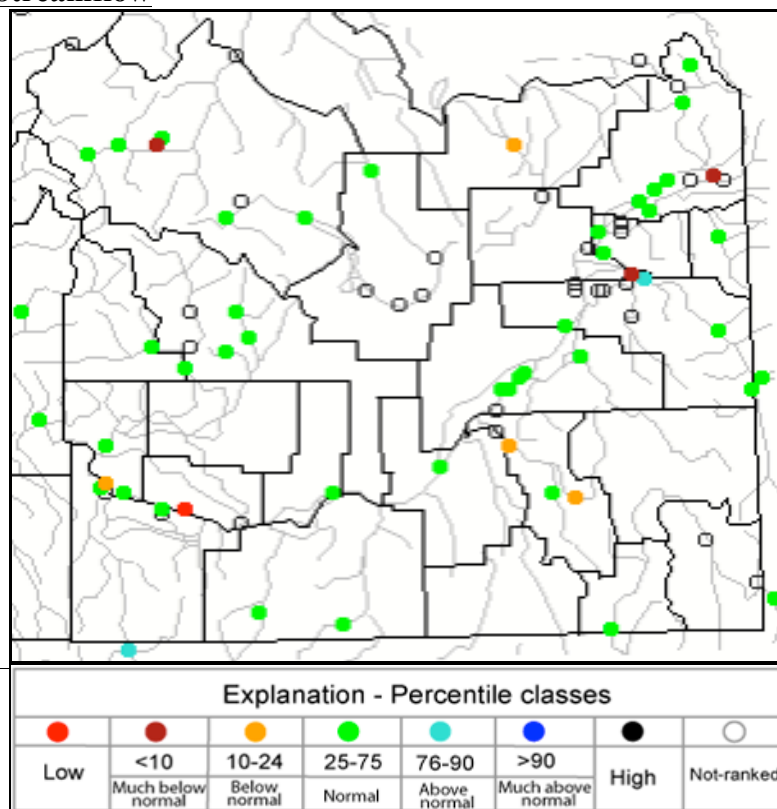
Reservoir	% Capacity Feb. 28 ¹	% Capacity Mar. 31 ²	Percent Change	% of Average ²	% of Last Year ²
American Falls	72	79	7	92	80
Bear Lake	38	41	3	62	101
Blackfoot	61	58	-3	88	97
Henry's Lake	98	100	2	105	104
Island Park	72	74	2	88	86
Little Wood	74	76	2	118	81
Mackay	84	87	3	118	93
Magic	47	58	11	104	121
Oakley	29	34	5	71	90
Palisades	63	60	-3	89	67
Ririe	56	60	4	117	108
Lake Walcott	42 ³	95 ⁴	53	n/a	n/a
Milner	92 ³	90 ⁴	-2	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) NRCS Feb. 28, 2011; (2) NRCS Mar. 31, 2011.

(3) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Feb. 27, 2011 (4) BOR April 5, 2011



Streamflow



Monthly streamflow compared to historical streamflow for March, 2011.



March, 2011 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flash Flood Statement	0
Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Flood Watch for Flooding	0
Flood Warning	0
Flood Statement	0
Flood Advisory	0
Hydrologic Statement	0
Hydrologic Outlook	3
Water Supply Outlook (State – ESFBOI)	1

cc: Jeff Zimmerman, Western Region HCSD
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